applying a torque in a tightening direction a first of the tightened threaded fasteners until a break away torque is reached;

measuring the torque values applied to the first tightened fastener and measuring the angle through which the first fastener rotates;

defining a first zero-angle point to be a point at which a tangent from a torque versus angle plot, created from the measured torque and angle values from the first tightened fastener, crosses an angle axis;

defining a first audit angle to be the angle between the first zero-angle point and the angle associated break away torque for the first tightened threaded fastener;

applying a torque in a tightening direction a second of the tightened threaded fasteners until a break away torque is reached;

measuring the torque values applied to the second tightened fastener and measuring the angle through which the second fastener rotates;

defining a second zero angle point to be a point at which a tangent from a torque versus angle plot, created from the measured torque and angle values from the second tightened fastener, crosses an angle axis;

defining a second audit angle to be the angle between the second zero angle point and the angle associated break away torque for the second tightened threaded fastener; and

comparing the first and second audit angles to determine relative clamp loads.


19. (New) A method as in claim 18 wherein the torque is applied until an angle of rotation between 1 and 15 degrees is achieved.


20. (New) A method as in claim 18 wherein audit angles are defined for the remainder of the plurality of tightened threaded fasteners and the plurality of audit angles are compared.

21. (New) A method as in claims 18 wherein the first and second audit angles are compared to a predetermined audit angle.

<u>In the drawings:</u>

In Fig.1 and Fig. 2 please amend the drawings to indicate prior art as indicated in red. In Fig. 2 please change the term <u>Eleastic</u> to Elastic to correct the misspelling as indicated in red.